

will be extended when produce is available with which to supply them. The outlook, therefore, is bright in so far as markets are concerned, and it is up to us to produce so that we may supply these markets.

With the unique climatic conditions which obtain in different parts of the Province, and our rich soils, we can produce the goods. The soil only needs to be "tickled with the hoe" to yield bounteous crops. The marketing end of the business is where we must effect a remedy. There is a great necessity for combined co-operative effort on the part of producers throughout the length and breadth of the Province, and never will the farmer obtain the price for his products, to which he is justly entitled, till this is effected.

It is, therefore, very gratifying to note that a decided movement has been made in this direction during the last year or two. Co-operation in farming is the keynote of success, as is plainly evidenced by the experience of other countries.

I would instance what has been accomplished in Denmark, New Zealand, Australia and other countries, by co-operative effort, directed along well thought out and progressive lines. There is too big a gap between the price paid the producer and that paid by the consumer, and the only way to bridge this gap is by co-operative effort, not only amongst farmers, but also amongst the consumers.

A move in the right direction has been effected lately by the establishment of public markets in our cities, many of which are run along very good lines, and are proving of the greatest benefit to both producer and consumer, and naturally helping towards reducing the price of living.

Very good work has been accomplished by co-operative associations in different parts of the Province in securing supplies at wholesale for the use of members, thus materially lessening the cost of production.

In talking of co-operation, I would like to refer to the Agricultural Bill, which passed the last session of the Provincial Legislature. This bill was the result of the report of the Royal Commission on Agriculture, and is a carefully thought out and well devised bill, modelled largely on the lines of the New Zealand Credit Bill, which has proved such a success and has revolutionized agriculture in that country.

When this bill becomes operative, a great stimulus will be given to agriculture in this Province.

In conclusion, I would just say a few words about the work of the Provincial Department of Agriculture. There has been, during the past few years, a very large increase

in appropriations granted by the Provincial Government for agriculture, with a consequent extension of the staff of expert officials and of the work carried out by the department.

We have at the present time a large staff of expert officials who are constantly visiting farmers and fruit growers throughout the Province, discussing with them the problems with which they have to contend, and endeavoring to help them towards a satisfactory solution of same. By the medium of our Farmers' and Women's Institutes in different parts of the Province, good educative work is done. Many demonstration plots are operated by the department in different parts of the Province, the object of these plots being to show the farmer how he can, by using correct methods, increase crop production.

Many demonstration orchards have been started in different fruit growing districts of the Province, the object of these being to show how the fruit grower, by choosing his site carefully, by the selection of good commercial varieties, by the adoption of correct and scientific cultural methods, may secure the highest production from his orchard and generally the cumulative effect of proper treatment and the practising of correct cultural methods from the start.

Seed selection and distribution work is carried out throughout the Province, cow-testing associations have been formed in the principal dairying districts, short course lecture and demonstration work, stock judging contests, fruit packing and pruning schools, and various other lines of educational activity are carried out by the officials of the different branches of this department.

The duties of any department of agriculture may be primarily educational, and the object of the department is to help the farmer to help himself.

The dawn of a brighter day is at hand, and agriculture will come into its own. Our Province has indeed been richly endowed by a bountiful Providence. We have not here the rigorous climatic conditions which are experienced in other parts of the Dominion. Life here is pleasant and healthful, and we may look forward with confidence to our beautiful fertile valleys becoming rapidly settled by a happy and contented people, engaged in the noblest pursuit of all—that of producing the fruits of the earth, to feed the teeming population of the world.

No country can enjoy lasting prosperity if it neglects its agricultural opportunities. Let all of our efforts, therefore, be directed towards encouraging by all means in our power the legitimate development of agriculture, our basic industry.

## The Fishing Industry in British Columbia

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**Tremendous Coastline of British Columbia Affords Protection and Feeding Ground of Incalculable Extent—Variety of Fish and Annual Output.**

The sinuosities of the coastline of British Columbia, comprised between the 49th and 55th parallels, have been reckoned of over 20,000 miles in extent, the main indentations alone more than total 7,000 miles. The mainland is deeply indented with hundreds of fiords of great length; the waters of these fiords are deep, and to them nature has offered effective shelter in opposing to the winds and storms of the Pacific a barrier in the series of archipelagoes included in the Vancouver Island and Queen Charlotte Island groups. The area of waters so enclosed, comprising the great gulfs, straits, fiords, inlets and canals, termed by mariners the Inner Passage, embraces the most extensive

spawning and feeding grounds in the world for halibut, herring and numerous other food fishes.

From fifty to one hundred miles west of the main islands of these archipelagoes the continental shelf drops off to extreme depths, but from that margin inward and eastward the ocean bed forms a plateau at from twenty to two hundred fathoms; this plateau forms the great feeding and spawning banks for many varieties of fish.

Ocean currents and tidal drifts have an important influence upon fish and the food of fish. The North Pacific or Japanese Current, striking in easterly along the 50th parallel, divides as it reaches the continental shelf, one branch sweeping north, to be turned due west again where that shelf runs out once more into the Aleutian Archipelago; the other branch flows south as the California current, and forms a settled drift about fifty-five miles west of